

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP



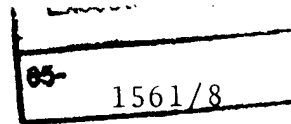
TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T	X			
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	VC/NIC				
16	Ch/Protocol		X		
17					
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SUSPENSE		30 Aug 85 Date			

Remarks To # 8: Pls provide background on this invitation and prepare response for DCI signature.

Executive Secretary

26 Aug 85

Date



26 AUG 1985

21 August 1985

The Honorable William Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bill:

I wanted to thank you for your invitation to attend the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Commemoration of the Pioneers of Space Technology. I also thought you should know why I did not attend.

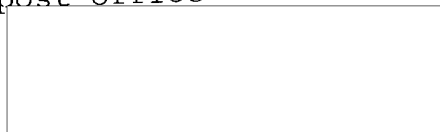
In brief, I am inclined to believe someone in your organization handled my invitation in such a way as to assure I would not be present.

Let me be specific. Well over a month ago, I received a telephone call from someone the Agency had assigned to handle this matter (individual not known to me). He told me about the plans for the August 18th commemoration. He was properly guarded in the explanation, but I did understand the purpose of the occasion. He indicated that the call was to alert me to the date and additionally to verify my home mailing address. He explained that the event would not be made public, thus all invitees would receive written invitations and would be requested to R.S.V.P. to assist in final planning. I told him the address he had for me was correct, that I was honored to be included on the guest list and would look forward to receiving the invitation.

A couple of weeks later I visited a senior officer in DD/S&T on other business, but we discussed your plans for the 18th in more detail. He mentioned a number of those expected to attend, particularly those involved in the pre-1960 era and I gathered that he expected to see me there.

The week of August 18 arrived and I had still received no written invitation, I assumed that either; the event had been cancelled, the date had been changed, or my name had been removed from the guest list.

Just before noon on Saturday, August 17, I stopped by the post office and found I had received a registered letter from



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The postmark indicated the letter was mailed the previous day, i.e., Friday, August 16. Inside the outer envelope was the sealed invitation from you. The R.S.V.P. date was given as "by the eleventh of August" or 5 days before the invitation was mailed. That made it difficult to believe that a response was expected, or wanted.

Despite the circumstances I considered coming anyway, but decided against it. Clearly the master guest list would have already been completed, distributed to security guards, etc. and I could easily have been embarrassed by being turned away at the gate in front of many of my old friends.

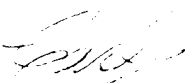
I am truly sorry I missed the commemoration since I believe it was so well deserved by those pioneers who did so much for their country. Many of them I count as both professional and personal friends. I would have enjoyed being involved.

My biggest regret is that if by chance any of them noted my absence and inquired about me --- I can only assume they were told that I had been invited but just didn't bother to come. A very wrong impression of my true feelings has probably been created and I doubt that I will ever have a chance to correct it.

I'm sorry to bother you with this story, but felt you would want to know.

Meanwhile, I wish you and the Agency continued success. I remain a full supporter.

Sincerely,



Carl E. Duckett

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